

# **CALAVERAS COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT**



**LOCAL COURT RULES  
EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2004**



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## CHAPTER 1 GENERAL RULES

### 1.1 Scope of Rules

These Local Rules of Court apply to the Calaveras County Superior Court. *(Eff. 7/1/98; As amended, eff. 1/1/01.)*

### 1.2 Citation of Rules

These Rules shall be known and cited as the “Local Rules for the Calaveras County Superior Court.” *(Eff. 7/1/98; As amended, eff. 1/1/01.)*

### 1.3 Effective Date of Rules

These Rules shall take effect on January 1, 2004. *(Eff. 7/1/98; As amended, eff. 1/1/04.)*

### 1.4 Effect of Rules

These rules shall, on their effective date, supersede all local court rules previously adopted by the Calaveras County Superior Court. *(Eff. 7/1/98; As amended, eff. 1/1/02.)*

### 1.5 Construction and Application of Rules

These Rules shall be construed and applied in such a manner as to not conflict with the California Rules of Court and shall be liberally construed to facilitate and promote the business and administration of justice by the Calaveras County Superior Court. *(Eff. 7/1/98; As amended, eff. 1/1/01.)*

### 1.6 State Rules and Corresponding Local Rules

The California Rules of Court are not printed as part of the Calaveras County Local Rules but are considered incorporated within them. Proceedings in the Superior Court of Calaveras County are governed by the California Rules of Court as supplemented by these local rules. Each Local Rule must be read in conjunction with the California Rules of Court. *(Eff. 7/1/98; As amended, eff. 1/1/01.)*

### 1.7 Amendment, Addition or Repeal of these Rules - Sanctions for Failure to Comply with Rules

These Local Rules may be adopted, amended or repealed by the majority vote of the judges of both courts at any judges meeting. Any rules adopted or amended shall be effective subject to the notice and publication requirements of Code of Civil Procedure §575.1 and the requirements of Government Code §68071.

These Rules, where applicable to civil actions and proceedings and as amended from time

to time, are adopted pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure §575.1. Any counsel, party represented by counsel, or party appearing in pro per, who fails to comply with any of the requirements set forth in these Rules shall, upon motion of a party or the court, be subject to the sanctions set forth in Code of Civil Procedure §575.2, Code of Civil Procedure §177.5 and California Rules of Court, Rule 227. (Eff. 7/1/98; As amended, eff. 1/1/01.)

### **1.8 Appearance for Another Attorney**

An attorney who appears for another attorney is representing the party then before the court. As provided by the California Rules of Professional Conduct, such attorney is required to do so competently and is expected to be prepared to carry out and perform any duties required by the court, to have authority to make appropriate dispositions or calendar settings and the duty to communicate any orders the court may issue to the client and attorney of record. (Eff. 7/1/98; As amended, eff. 7/1/02.)

### **1.9 Court Reporter Availability**

- A. Pursuant to Rule 891 of the California Rules of Court, the following enumerates the departments and proceedings for which the services of official court reporters are normally available:

Dept. 1 - Criminal Proceedings  
Juvenile Proceedings  
Regularly scheduled Civil Law and Motion calendar (*subject to availability of official reporter*)  
Domestic Violence Prevention Act Restraining Orders (*subject to availability of official reporter*)  
Civil Harassment Restraining Orders (*subject to availability of official reporter*)

Dept. 2 - Criminal Proceedings (*with the exception of infractions.*)

Dept. 4 - Family Support Calendar (*subject to availability of official reporter*)

All Other Departments - Mandated Proceedings only.

- B. The services of an official reporter are not normally available for trials or long cause hearings other than criminal or juvenile proceedings. Any party requesting the services of an official reporter at trial or hearing must file a written statement with the court at least twenty (20) days prior to the trial or hearing date. If it appears to the court that the services of an official reporter will not be available, the clerk will notify the party of that fact as soon as possible before the trial or hearing. The party will then need to make arrangements for the presence of a pro tempore court reporter.
- C. Where the services of an official reporter are provided for trials or long cause

hearings other than criminal or juvenile proceedings, the party requesting the services of the court reporter must pay the required fee pursuant to Government Code Section 68086 as set forth in the court's fee schedule to the Clerk of the Court prior to the trial or hearing and provide proof of payment to the court reporter prior to commencement of the proceedings. (*Eff. 7/1/98; As amended, eff. 7/1/03.*)

#### **1.10 Filing and Format of Documents**

All papers submitted for filing shall conform to California Rules of Court, Rule 201. The clerk will endorse up to three copies of each document filed. It is recommended that all original signatures be in blue ink.

Documents may be submitted for filing as follows: in person at the clerk's filing window; by depositing the documents into the drop box located adjacent to the clerk's filing window; or by mailing them to the court.

Documents deposited in the drop-off box must be in a sealed envelope and accompanied by the appropriate filing fee and a self addressed stamped envelope if return conformed copies are desired. Filings and pleadings deposited in the drop box prior to 4:00 PM p.m., Monday through Friday, except court holidays, will reflect the date of deposit. Documents left in the drop box after 4:00 p.m. will be filed as of the following court business day. Matters requiring immediate judicial attention should never be placed in the drop-off box. (*Eff. 7/1/98; As amended, eff. 1/1/04.*)

#### **1.11 Sealed / Confidential Records**

Unless confidentiality is required by law, court records in both criminal and general civil cases are presumed to be open to the public for inspection. For all records filed where confidentiality is required by law, the document caption or title shall state "CONFIDENTIAL" with an accompanying citation to the applicable law requiring such confidentiality. For any other court record a party wishes to be sealed from public inspection, the party shall follow those procedures set out in California Rules of Court, rule 243.1 et. seq. An agreement or stipulation between the parties for confidentiality or sealing of a document filed with the court is legally insufficient. The law requires court findings prior to sealing any records not deemed confidential by existing statute. The party filing a confidential or sealed report shall, at the time of filing the document, submit an 8 ½ by 11 inch envelop with the document title, case number and the word "confidential" printed prominently on the outside. (*Eff. 1/1/02.*)

#### **1.12 Ex Parte or Informal Communication with the Court**

The Court will not consider any ex parte communications from counsel or self-represented parties unless made in the manner prescribed by these Rules, by the California Rules of Court, or by the laws of this State. Except as permitted by law, lawyers and parties shall avoid ex parte communications on the substance of a pending case with a judge or his or her research staff before whom such case is pending.

Applications to the Court for an order or other relief should never be made by letter. Letters or other communications between counsel should not be sent to judges or his or her research staff.

Where applicable laws or rules permit an ex parte application or communication to the court and there are no grounds for waiver of notice, the following duties apply: (1) Before making such an application or communication, an attorney must make diligent efforts to notify the opposing party or opposing counsel known to represent or likely to represent the opposing party; (2) The moving party must make reasonable efforts to accommodate the schedule of such attorney or party to permit the opposing party to be represented; and (3) The moving party must avoid taking advantage of an opponent's known absence from the office. Counsel shall be mindful of Rule 5-300(b) of the Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of California, concerning ex parte communications with the Court. (*Eff. 1/1/02; As amended, eff. 7/1/04.*)

### **1.13 Foreign Language Interpreters**

- A. In all proceedings, except juvenile or criminal proceedings, counsel or self-represented litigants requiring the assistance of a foreign language interpreter for a non-english speaking party or witness at hearing or trial must make all necessary arrangements prior to the trial or hearing for the presence of an appropriate interpreter.
- B. In juvenile or criminal proceedings, where an interpreter is required at hearing or trial for a non-english speaking party or witness, counsel for the prosecution or defense must notify the court, in writing, as soon as the need for the interpreter is determined. For each non-english speaking party or witness, the court must be provided with the date of the hearing, the name of the person for whom the interpreter is requested, the person's role in the proceeding and the foreign language spoken, including the dialect where applicable. The Court will make arrangements for the foreign language interpreter to be present at the trial or hearing and, pursuant to Rule 810 of the California Rules of Court will pay the related costs. Counsel must immediately notify the court upon learning that the services of the interpreter are not required. Failure to timely notify the court of the cancellation of the need for an interpreter may result in an order for reimbursement to the court for any cancellation fee the court is required to pay to the interpreter.
- C. The Court will not involve itself in the provision of foreign language interpreter services other than at trial or hearing in criminal and juvenile proceedings. (*Eff. 7/1/03.*)



### 1.14 Calendaring Requests

All requests to place matters on the court's calendar for hearing on any civil, criminal, probate, family law, unlawful detainer or juvenile matter must be made in writing and presented or delivered for filing at the court clerk's filing window. Where there is no formal pleading demonstrating proper notice was given to all parties, and absent the written agreement of all parties, the written request to calendar a matter for hearing must be filed at least 24 hours before the requested hearing date and time. A party or attorney requesting to calendar a matter for hearing is directed to local form "Application for Immediate Court Hearing and Order" found in Appendix A to these rules. (*Eff. 7/1/03.*)

### 1.15 Bulky and Hazardous Exhibits

The Executive Officer/Clerk of the Calaveras County Court will not accept or retain exhibits that are bulky<sup>1</sup>, heavy<sup>2</sup> or designated as hazardous waste material<sup>3</sup>.

Pursuant to Penal Code Section 1417.3(b) and upon a finding of good cause, certain toxic materials may be brought into a courtroom and introduced into evidence provided they remain at all times in a sealed condition and properly labeled as to the exact contents thereof. Unless otherwise ordered by the court, the person bringing the evidence into the courtroom shall retain it and shall be responsible for the storage of the evidence and for the production and substitution of a photograph record in lieu of the evidence.

In the event the court does not order the substitution of a photograph and/or technical report for the actual controlled substance evidence, the evidence shall be stored by the person delivering it into the courtroom until it is eligible for destruction.

Additional exhibits which are not to be sent to the courts' exhibits custodian, unless there is a court order for the court to retain them, include the following:

1. Any type of explosive powder.
2. Any explosive chemical such as toluene, ethane, etc.
3. Any explosive device such as a pipe bomb, hand grenade, etc.
4. Any flammable device such as a Molotov cocktail.
5. Any canister containing tear gas, mace, etc.
6. Any corrosive liquid.
7. Any rags soaked with any flammable liquid which is still damp or wet.
8. Dry P.C.P. in other than an airtight package, i.e., plastic.
9. Any liquid P.C.P.
10. Exhibits purporting to contain samples of blood, urine, human or animal fluids or tissues, or other items requiring refrigeration and/or humidity controlled storage.

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<sup>1</sup> "bulky" objects are those exceeding 1 cubic foot in volume.

<sup>2</sup> "heavy" objects are those exceeding 3 lbs. by weight.

<sup>3</sup> All controlled substances listed in Health & Safety Code Sections 11054, 11055, 11056, 11057, and 11058 are considered to be hazardous waste material.

11. All controlled substances as defined in Section 11007 of the California Health and Safety Code (which refers to schedules of controlled substances listed in H&S Sections 11054, 11055, 11056, 11057 and 11058) have been designated by the court as hazardous waste materials.

Exhibits which fall into one of the above classifications are not to be sent to the courts' exhibits custodian. Photographs, technical reports, or identical dummy objects shall be used in lieu of the original object. This rule shall not apply to capital cases. (*Eff. 1/1/04.*)

#### **1.16 Coordination of Personal Conduct Orders**

In hearing any matter where a personal conduct restraining order is at issue, the judicial officer shall make a reasonable inquiry about the existence and terms of any domestic violence or child custody or child visitation or criminal protective orders involving any party or victim or witness in the action currently before the Court. (*Eff. 1/1/04.*)

#### **1.17 Application for Waiver of Court Fees and Costs**

- A. Initial Fees Waiver. Each party applying for a waiver of court fees / costs shall submit a separate application for each case. Failure to comply with this requirement, or failure to submit a complete and legible application will result in a denial of the application. The clerk is authorized to grant application for fee waivers that meet the standards of eligibility established by subdivision (a)(6)(A) or (a)(6)(B) of the Government Code § 68511.3.
- B. Additional Fees Waiver. In addition to the initial fee waiver above, application for waiver of the additional fees / costs referenced in Rule 985(j) of the California Rules of Court must be submitted on the form titled Application for Waiver of Additional Court Fees and Costs and must be submitted to the appropriate judge. If the relief sought is the waiver of jury fees, the application shall be made at least 25 days prior to the commencement of the trial for which the relief from fees imposed is sought, or at least five days in unlawful detainer proceedings.
- C. Recovery of Waived Fees and Costs. In all cases in which a prevailing party has been granted a waiver of fees / costs, and is awarded costs the court shall order that the party owing those costs pay the sum of all waived costs to the court.
- D. Reasonably Necessary Photocopying. The California Rules of Court authorize the court to waive the clerk's fees for reasonably necessary photocopying. This Court defines the papers which may be reasonably and necessarily photocopied at the court's expense under the fee waiver for the litigant benefited by the fee waiver as only one copy of those papers in the court's file for the action or proceeding in which the waiver of fees was granted, and excluding papers filed by the benefited litigant and/or papers not served upon the benefited litigant for the first five days following the date of filing.
- E. Termination of Waiver. The party requesting a waiver must immediately notify the court of any change in financial status that would effect the party's ability to pay court fees / costs. Orders granting fees / costs waivers expire 6 months from the date the waiver is granted. (*Eff. 7/1/04.*)

## CHAPTER 2 COURT ORGANIZATION

### 2.1 Presiding Judge

The presiding judge shall serve for a term of two (2) years. Presiding judge duties shall alternate between the two judges of the Calaveras County Superior Court. In the event that the presiding judge is absent or unavailable, then the other judge will act as presiding judge. *(Eff. 7/1/98; As amended, eff. 1/1/01.)*

### 2.2 Court Executive Officer

In accordance with the provisions of Government Code §69898, all of the powers, duties and responsibilities exercised or permitted to be exercised by the County Clerk of Calaveras County in connection with judicial actions, proceedings and records shall be exercised by the Court Executive Officer.

The powers, duties and responsibilities transferred pursuant to this rule shall include all of the powers, duties and responsibilities of the County Clerk with respect to the Calaveras County Superior Court in all actions, proceedings and records including, but not limited to the receipt, processing and filing of papers concerning court business and records; the maintenance of court files; indices and other records; the provision of courtroom and other clerks to assist in the conduct and recording of judicial business; the calendaring of cases and the maintenance of court calendars and schedules, and the keeping and dissemination of statistical information and reports as required by law or policy. *(Eff. 7/1/98; As amended, eff. 1/1/01.)*



## CHAPTER 3 CIVIL RULES

### 3.1 Ex Parte Applications

An “Ex Parte” Application is a request for a court order where the applicant has not provided all opposing parties with regular written advance notice of the request. This court recognizes two types of ex-parte applications: (1) routine ex-parte applications; and (2) extraordinary ex-parte applications.

- A. Routine Ex-Parte Applications: No hearing is required and the applicant is not required to file local form *Application for Immediate Court Hearing and Order* for the following ex-parte applications:
  1. All parties stipulate in writing to the requested orders.
  2. Application for waiver of court fees and costs.
  3. Application for appointment of guardian ad litem to initiate action.
  4. Application for appointment of counsel.
  5. Request for order to show cause without temporary orders.
  6. Request to file documents which exceed applicable page limits.
  7. Application for default judgment.
  8. Request for order shortening time in Family Code matters where the request to shorten time is made on the Judicial Council form and supported by a sufficient factual showing in the attached application.
  9. Temporary restraining order applications authorized under the Family Code and submitted on Judicial Council forms containing facts of recent domestic violence, or the threat of continuing domestic violence, against all the requested protected persons.
  10. Temporary restraining order applications authorized under the Code of Civil Procedure and submitted on Judicial Council forms containing a clear and convincing showing of facts of unlawful violence or credible threat of violence against all the requested protected persons.
  11. Petition for Appointment of Temporary Conservator where the petitioner is the Calaveras County Public Guardian or Director of Behavioral Health Services.
- B. Extraordinary Ex-Parte Applications: All ex-parte applications not listed as routine ex-parte applications above are considered extraordinary ex-parte applications. Applicant’s presence at the court hearing is required and applicant must file local form *Application for Immediate Court Hearing and Order* in addition to any other papers filed in support of the application: All such extraordinary ex-parte applications must strictly comply with California Rules of Court, Rule 379 or other applicable statutory authority which must be clearly recited in the application.
- C. Court Review: The adequacy of the application for ex-parte orders will be determined on the papers submitted. The application must contain sufficient

evidentiary facts to justify granting the prayer. Conclusions or statements of ultimate facts are not sufficient. A foundation should be set forth establishing the affiant's personal knowledge. Attorney declarations based upon information and belief are insufficient to establish evidentiary facts. It is recommended that all ex parte applications for temporary relief be filed with the court by 4:00 P.M. the day before the hearing at which ex parte relief will be requested.

See local form titled APPLICATION FOR IMMEDIATE COURT HEARING AND ORDER in Appendix "A" to these rules. (*Eff. 7/1/98; As amended, eff. 1/1/04.*)

### **3.2 Proof Of Service**

A separate Proof of Service, approved Judicial Council form Rule 982(a)(23), shall be filed for each defendant/cross-defendant. (*Eff. 7/1/98.*)

### **3.3 Law and Motion**

- A. Hearings on the Law and Motion calendar are limited to ten (10) minutes and are subject to further time limitations to accommodate the court's calendar. Motions for summary judgment and prerogative writs are routinely set at a "short cause" time available by contacting the clerk. Any law and motion matter requiring more than ten (10) minutes may, at the discretion of the court, be designated as a "short cause" matter and assigned a hearing date.
- B. Evidence received in law and motion hearings is by written declaration, affidavit or request for judicial notice only, without oral testimony or cross-examination, except as allowed in the court's discretion for good cause shown.
- C. Law and Motion matters may not be continued, even by stipulation of the parties, except upon approval by the court for good cause shown. (*Eff. 1/1/04.*)

#### **3.3.1 Motion to be Relieved as Counsel**

- A. All motions to be relieved as counsel shall be made on the approved Judicial Council forms and strictly comply with all requirements of California Rules of Court, Rule 376.
- B. A motion to withdraw as attorney of record must include the attorney's supporting declaration identifying all matters in the case which are calendared for hearing, known to the attorney at the time the motion to withdraw is filed. (*Eff. 7/1/98; As amended, eff. 1/1/01.*)

#### **3.3.2 Default Judgments by Affidavit**

A party seeking a default judgment by affidavit shall follow California Rules of Court, Rule 388.

If a default judgment is requested by affidavit pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure §585(d), the request and accompanying declarations shall be submitted to the clerk. If, after reviewing the materials submitted, the court determines that personal testimony is required, the clerk shall so advise the moving party. If testimony is required, the moving party must notify the clerk to arrange a hearing date. (*Eff. 7/1/98; As amended, eff. 1/1/01.*)

### **3.3.3 Attorneys Fees on Default Judgments**

The following attorney's fees shall, under normal circumstances, be awarded in default actions: 25 percent of first \$1,000 (with minimum fee of \$150); 20 percent of next \$4,000; 15 percent of next \$5,000; 10 percent of next \$10,000; 5 percent of next \$30,000; and 2 percent of the amount over \$50,000. (*Eff. 1/1/01.*)

### **3.3.4 Orders After Hearing**

Unless otherwise directed, the prevailing party shall prepare orders after hearing. Counsel shall comply with California Rules of Court, Rule 391. (*Eff. 7/1/98.*)

### **3.3.5 Continuances on Short Cause Law and Motion and Order to Show Cause Calendar**

If a motion for continuance is to be made in court, the court shall be notified at the earliest opportunity prior to the hearing. (*Eff. 7/1/98; As amended, eff. 1/1/01.*)

### **3.3.6 Lack of Appearance**

Any matter in which there is no appearance at the time of calendar call shall be ordered off-calendar unless the courtroom clerk has been notified that there will be a late appearance or that the matter will be submitted on the pleadings. (*Eff. 7/1/98; As amended, eff. 1/1/01.*)

### **3.3.7 Tentative Rulings**

- A. The court operates a tentative ruling procedure for civil law and motion matters. On the afternoon of the court day before the hearing, the court shall publish a tentative ruling or require the parties to appear at the hearing. Tentative rulings for the next court day will be available after 3:00 p.m. by telephoning (209) 754-6311, which will provide a tape-recorded message. The complete text of the tentative ruling may also be viewed at the court's web site located at [www.calaveras-court.com](http://www.calaveras-court.com).
- B. The tentative ruling shall become the ruling of the court, unless a party desiring to be heard so advises the clerk no later than 4:00 p.m. the court day before the hearing, and further advises the clerk that such party has notified the other side of its intention to appear. Requests to be heard shall be made by telephoning (209) 754- 6311. Unless opposing counsel and the court have been notified of the request to be heard, oral argument will not be permitted.

- C. Where appearance has been requested or invited by the court, limited oral argument will be entertained.
- D. All noticed motions and demurrers in civil matters shall include the following information in the notice:

"Pursuant to Local Rule 3.3.7, the court will issue a tentative ruling on the merits of this matter by 3:00 p.m., the court day before the hearing. Alternatively, the court may request the parties to appear at the hearing. To receive the tentative ruling, call (209) 754-6311. If you wish to be heard on the matter, you must notify the court and opposing counsel of such intent by 4:00 p.m. the court day before the hearing. Notify the court by telephoning (209) 754-6311. If you do not provide proper notice to the court and the opposing party the day before the hearing, no hearing will be held and the tentative ruling will become the order on this matter." (*Eff. 1/1/03.*)

### **3.4 Civil Delay Reductions Rules**

#### **3.4.1 Scope and Policy**

These rules are intended to implement the Trial Court Delay Reduction Act of 1986 (Government Code §68600 et seq.) and amendments thereto and shall apply to all general civil actions filed on or after July 1, 1992. Any general civil actions filed prior to the implementation of the Delay Reduction Program may be included in the program in accordance with procedures set out in these rules.

It is the policy of the Calaveras County Superior Court that all actions subject to these rules shall be actively managed, supervised and controlled by the court from the time of filing of the first document invoking the court's jurisdiction through final disposition.

It is the policy of this court that all general civil cases shall be resolved as expeditiously as possible, consistent with the obligation of the courts to give full and careful consideration to the issues presented, and consistent with the right of the parties to adequately prepare and present their cases to the court. (*Eff. 7/1/98; As amended, eff. 1/1/01.*)

#### **3.4.2 Definition of General Civil Case**

As used in these rules, "general civil case" means all civil cases except probate, guardianship, conservatorship, family law (including proceedings under the Family Law Act, Uniform Parentage Act, and Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act, freedom from parental custody and control proceedings, and adoption proceedings), juvenile court proceedings, small claims, and "other civil petitions" including petitions for a restraining order, domestic violence restraining order, writ of possession, writs of



mandate or prohibition; appointment of a receiver, release of property from lien, and change of name. *(Eff. 7/1/98; As amended, eff. 7/1/02.)*

### **3.4.3 Initial Contact**

At the time the case is filed, the clerk shall append to the initial pleading a document entitled “Delay Reduction Program Information and Setting” stating that the case is included in the Delay Reduction Program, that special rules apply to the case, that it is the duty of each party to be familiar with the rules, and the date, time and place of the first Case Management Conference. The first conference date shall be set approximately 120 days from the date of filing of the initial pleading. It is the responsibility of the filing party to serve all other parties with notice of the Case Management Conference date with the complaint. *(Eff. 7/1/98; As amended, eff. 1/1/01.)*

### **3.4.4 Cross-Complaints**

Cross-complainants shall serve all new party cross-defendants with a copy of the initial “Delay Reduction Program Information and Setting” document along with notice of any other pending Case Management Conference hearing date. *(Eff. 7/1/98; As amended, eff. 7/1/02.)*

### **3.4.5 Case Management Conference**

- A. **Statement:** Not less than 15 days before each Case Management Conference, each party shall file with the court and serve on all other parties a Case Management Conference Statement (Judicial Council form CM-110).
- B. **Participation in conference:** Counsel for each party and each self-represented party appearing in the action shall attend the Case Management Conference, shall have filed the required statement and shall be familiar with the case and be fully prepared to discuss all matters stated in California Rules of Court, rule 212. Provided the Case Management Conference Statement is fully complete, timely filed and served, and the parties have observed the pleading timelines specified in California Rules of Court, rule 201.7, the parties may be notified by the court that no appearance is necessary at the Case Management Conference.
- C. **Actions and Orders:** At the Case Management Conference, the court shall take appropriate action and make orders consistent with the policy of delay reduction as specified in California Rules of Court, rule 212. *(Eff. 7/1/98; As amended, eff. 7/1/02.)*

### **3.4.6 Differentiation of Cases to Achieve Goals**

- A. To comply with California Rules of Court, Rule 209, the court has adopted the following case management plans with disposition goals from the date of filing:
  - 1. Plan 1 - disposition within 12 months;

2. Plan 2 - disposition within 18 months;
  3. Plan 3 - disposition within 24 months.
- B. Cases in the delay reduction program shall be initially assigned to Plan 1, and for good cause shown the case will be reassigned to another plan. In considering reassignment, the court will consider those factors stated in California Rules of Court, rule 210. (*Eff. 7/1/98; As amended, eff. 7/1/04.*)

### **3.4.7 Demand for Jury Trial**

Any party may demand a jury and be responsible for the jury deposit consistent with the procedures for jury trial set forth in the Code of Civil Procedure §631(b). Failure of the parties to deposit advance jury fees pursuant to CCP§631 shall result in a waiver of trial by jury. (*Eff. 7/1/98; As amended, eff. 7/1/04.*)

### **3.4.8 Motions**

Notwithstanding the delay reduction rules, any party may file a motion on the Civil Law and Motion calendar. The Case Management Conference calendar is not a Law and Motion calendar. (*Eff. 7/1/98.*)

### **3.4.9 At-Issue Memorandum Abolished**

No at-issue memorandum shall be filed by the clerk's office in any delay reduction case. (*Eff. 7/1/98.*)

### **3.4.10 Sanctions**

The court has the right to impose reasonable sanctions for failure to comply with these rules including, but not limited to, monetary sanctions, limitation of evidence and/or dismissal. (*Eff. 7/1/98.*)

## **3.5 Judicial Arbitration**

The provisions of Chapter 2.5, commencing with section 1141.10 of the Code of Civil Procedure and the provisions of the California Rules of Court set forth in Division III, commencing with Rule 1600, regarding judicial arbitration, shall apply to all civil cases. Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 1141.11(b) all at-issue general civil actions shall be submitted to arbitration if the amount in controversy in the opinion of the court will not exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for each plaintiff. (*Eff. 7/1/98; As amended, eff. 1/1/02.*)

### **3.6 Settlement Conference**

#### **3.6.1 Requirement of Settlement Conference**

In all general civil matters, at the time the court sets the case for trial, a settlement conference shall also be set at least 15 days prior to the trial date. (*Eff. 7/1/98; As amended, eff. 1/1/01.*)

#### **3.6.2 Each Party to be Prepared**

Each plaintiff or party seeking affirmative relief or recovery shall be prepared to make his or her minimum request and each defendant must come to the conference prepared to make his or her highest offer. In each case, counsel who attend the conference shall be thoroughly familiar with the case and shall be prepared to discuss it. The attorney responsible for the preparation and trial of the case should attend in each case.

Experience has demonstrated the importance and necessity of the presence of all persons whose consent will be required for a binding settlement agreement. Present at the settlement conference must be persons having full authority to settle the case. Only on good cause application made prior to the time of the settlement conference, may the Court allow such persons to be available telephonically. (*Eff. 7/1/98; As amended, eff. 7/1/03.*)

#### **3.6.3 Settlement Conference Statement**

It is mandatory that all counsel shall, at least five court days prior to the scheduled Settlement Conference, submit to the court and serve on all parties a Settlement Conference Statement not to exceed five pages. The statement must conform with California Rules of Court 222.

In all cases, prior to the Settlement Conference, the parties shall have communicated their settlement requests and offers to each other. (*Eff. 7/1/98; As amended, eff. 7/1/03.*)

#### **3.6.4 Participation in Good Faith**

For a meaningful conference, all attorneys and/or the parties must agree to participate in good faith. Any failure of an attorney to prepare for, appear at, and participate in a settlement conference, unless good cause is shown for any such failure, may be considered an unlawful interference with the proceedings of the court. (*Eff. 7/1/98.*)

#### **3.6.5 Failure to Appear**

If, at the time of the scheduled Settlement Conference, plaintiff or those parties seeking affirmative relief fail to appear, the Court may order the trial date vacated, dismiss the action or impose monetary sanctions. Written notice thereof shall be mailed to all parties or their counsel of record as ordered by the Court. If the defendant or other responding party fails to appear at the Settlement Conference and good cause is not shown, the Court

may impose sanctions by way of costs, actual expenses, and counsel fees and order the case to proceed to trial on the date assigned.

In any case where no party appears at the Settlement Conference and no prior notice has been given to the Court, or where no party appears at the time set for trial and no notice has been given to the Court as to why no appearance is being made, the Court shall place the matter on the law and motion calendar for the purpose of being dismissed by the Court.

In any case where plaintiff(s) intend to conclude the case with a default judgment, the date for obtaining that default judgment shall be prior to the end of the track in which the case has been placed. “Default” cases, where the default judgment has not been entered, before the case management plan disposition date, are subject to the same dismissal rule as cases where the parties fail to appear at the settlement conference or trial without prior approval of the court. (*Eff. 7/1/98; As amended, eff. 7/1/04.*)

### **3.7 Facsimile Filings**

The Calaveras Superior Court accepts the filing of documents through a fax filing agency pursuant to California Rules of Court, Rule 2005. The court does not accept the direct fax filing of documents pursuant to California Rules of Court, Rule 2006 except upon exceptional circumstances and after obtaining leave of court. (*Eff. 1/1/01.*)

### **3.8 Telephone Appearances**

- A. Counsel and unrepresented litigants shall have the option of appearing by telephone in non-evidentiary law and motion, probate and case management hearings, unless such telephone appearance is specifically prohibited below. Counsel and unrepresented litigants choosing to appear by telephone under this rule shall place the phrase “Telephone Appearance” below the title of the moving or opposing papers. Counsel and unrepresented litigants electing to appear by telephone shall use the court’s selected telephone conferencing vendor.
- B. The following hearings are unsuitable for telephone appearances and personal appearances are required unless prior permission is obtained through application and order of the court:
  - 1. Family Law matters (except case management);
  - 2. Welfare and Institutions Code matters;
  - 3. Guardianship hearings;
  - 4. Conservatorship hearings;
  - 5. Petitions pursuant to Code of Civil Procedures § 527.6, 527.7 and 528.5;
  - 6. Judgment Debtor examinations;
  - 7. Mandatory Settlement Conferences;
  - 8. Hearings where oral testimony is taken;
  - 9. Hearings where oral argument is anticipated to exceed 15 minutes; and

10. Minor's or Incompetent Persons Compromises.
- C. The court reserves the right, at any time, to reject any request for telephone appearance. The court also reserves the right to halt any hearing involving a telephone appearance and order the attorneys or unrepresented litigants to personally appear at a later date and time.
- D. Counsel or unrepresented litigants electing an appearance by telephone shall:
1. Eliminate, to the greatest extent possible, all extra noise from the caller's location;
  2. Not use a cellular, cordless, computer or speaker telephone during the call;
  3. Be required to speak directly and clearly into the telephone handset;
  4. State his or her name for the record each time the caller speaks;
- E. Failure of counsel or unrepresented litigant to successfully coordinate with the court's designated telephone appearance vendor and timely appear by telephone at the hearing or failure to maintain an audible and clear telephone connection or caller's use of the hold button thereby delaying the hearing or any other circumstance that disrupts or unduly delays the hearing shall be considered a failure to appear at the hearing. (*Eff. 1/1/02.*)

### **3.9 Clerk's Transcript on Appeal**

- A. The record needed for appeal consists of two parts. The first is the clerk's transcript which contains the relevant documents from the court file in the case. The second part is the reporter's transcript which is the transcript of the oral testimony heard in the case. The following procedures are for the clerk's transcript.
- B. Every civil appeal requires the appellant to file a designation of what should be in the clerk's transcript on appeal. The clerk's transcript consists of those documents filed or lodged with the clerk of the trial court designated by the parties to be included in the record on appeal. Appellant must file a notice of designation with the court clerk within ten (10) days after filing the notice of appeal. A proof of service of the designation on respondent(s) must be attached to appellant's notice.
- C. Respondent may file a notice designating additional papers for inclusion in the clerk's transcript within ten (10) days of service of the appellant's designation.
- D. Designation of the clerk's transcript shall be made under Cal. Rules of Court, Rule 5, 5.1 or 5.2.
- E. Appellants must post a \$100.00 deposit with the court clerk at the time of filing the notice of appeal. The appellate clerk will provide an estimate of the cost of preparing the clerk's transcript which will include copies for the record, the alphabetical and chronological indexes, binding and cover, postage and

certification of the record to the Court of Appeals. The estimated costs of preparation in excess of the \$100.00 original deposit must be paid within 10 days of service of the estimate or the appeal will be placed in default. For those appellants electing to proceed under Rule 5.2, there is an additional charge to copy and exemplify the court's file, and the court will retain the exemplified copy.

- F. After the appellant has deposited the estimated costs, the appellate clerk begins preparation of the record. This includes numbering, indexing, copying, and binding each volume of the clerk's transcript on appeal.
- G. For trial exhibits which are not in the court's possession as they were ordered returned, the appellant is responsible for obtaining and providing the exhibits directly to the Court of Appeals. (*Eff. 7/1/02.*)

## CHAPTER 4 FAMILY LAW RULES

### 4.1 Matters Heard

Matters heard on the family law calendar shall include the following:

- A. All orders to show cause, motions and other family law matters preliminary to trial; all defaults under the Family Code; and all required settlement conferences and trials;
- B. All orders to show cause and motions relating to enforcement or modification of family law orders or judgments;
- C. All orders to show cause and motions relating to child custody, support, visitation, or attorney's fees and costs under the Uniform Parentage Act (Family Code §7600 et seq.) and the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act (Family Code §3400 et seq.);
- D. All proceedings under the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (Family Code §4900 et seq.);
- E. All applications for restraining orders enjoining domestic violence under the Family Law Act, the Uniform Parentage Act, and the Domestic Violence Prevention Act (Family Code §6200 et seq.);
- F. Family law discovery matters;
- G. All applications for issuance of writs of execution and habeas corpus, or warrants in lieu thereof, in family law cases; and
- H. Adoptions and all matters relating thereto, including proceedings pursuant to Family Code §7800 et seq. or §7660 et seq. (*Eff. 7/1/98; As amended, eff. 1/1/01.*)

### 4.2 Setting Family Law Motion Hearings

#### A. Introduction.

Generally, family law motions are set for a court hearing date which is approximately four weeks after the moving party files the motion paperwork with the court (See "Standard Practice" below). Only under exceptional circumstances may the four week "notice period" between filing of the motion paperwork and the date for hearing be shortened (See "Special" and "Emergency Situations" below). The purpose of the notice period is to allow the moving party to serve the other party with the motion paperwork and for the other party to consider the matter and file and serve a response (See "Service" and "Filing" sections below). The delay between initial filing and the court hearing also provides parties on a child custody motion the time to attend orientation and mediation prior to the

court hearing date (See “Mediation” section below). The court expects both sides to have attempted to resolve each issue raised by the moving and responding paperwork prior to attending the court hearing (See “Meet and Confer” section below). At the court hearing the judge will generally make a determination on the motion based upon the evidence found in the moving and responding papers (See “Hearing” section below).

**B. Standard Practice- Regularly Noticed Hearing.**

The moving party for any regularly noticed motion or order to show cause (without temporary orders) shall choose a convenient hearing date and enter the requested date on the moving papers along with the appropriate time and department. Hearings on Family Law motions or orders to show cause set by a party are regularly heard on Mondays at 9:00 am in Department 1. In selecting the requested hearing date, the moving party must observe filing and service time lines of the Code of Civil Procedure § 1005, which generally requires filing the moving papers at least (21) days prior to the hearing date. Motions or orders to show cause involving child custody and visitation, where no temporary orders have issued, will generally be set approximately forty five (45) days from the date of initial filing so that mediation may be completed prior to the hearing. If the court rejects the requested date, time and/or department entered on the moving papers, the court clerk will so advise the moving party who is then responsible for providing the responding party with adequate notice of the new date, time and/or department for the hearing.

**C. Special Situations – Shortening Standard Time for Hearing.**

An order shortening time for service of notice and hearing (per CCP § 1005) will only be granted where the application is supported by a declaration demonstrating good cause to shorten the regular notice period.

**D. Emergency Situations – Temporary Orders Upon 1 Day Prior Notice of Hearing.**

To request an ex-parte hearing you must telephone the court clerk at (209) 754-6310 no later than 2:00 pm the court day prior to the requested hearing date. The moving party’s pleadings should be filed with the court no later than 4:00 pm the court day prior to the ex-parte hearing. Ex-parte applications for temporary orders are only granted where strict compliance with California Rules of Court, Rule 379 is demonstrated by the moving papers. Applicants requesting an ex-parte hearing should complete local form “*Application for Immediate Court Hearing and Order*” [Local Form A-1] which is filed with the moving papers. Upon issuance of temporary orders, the court will select the hearing date.

**E. Emergency Situations – Temporary Orders without Prior Notice or Hearing.**

Temporary orders will only be granted without prior notice to the other party where the application for the temporary orders contains evidence that clearly demonstrates great or irreparable injury will result to the applicant before the



matter can be heard on notice or injury will result if prior notice is given. Upon issuance of temporary orders, the court will select the hearing date. (*Eff. 1/1/03.*)

#### **4.3 Service of Notice / Pleadings of Family Law Motion Hearings**

**A. Standard Practice – Service of Pleadings by the Moving Party.**

The moving party's pleadings as well as any required blank responsive pleadings must be served on the opposing party or attorney in accordance with the time frames mandated in Code of Civil Procedure § 1005 and Family Code § 215, unless an order shortening time for service or temporary orders has been obtained. Where service of process of a motion or order to show cause has not been completed in a timely fashion, a written order continuing the matter to a new date must be obtained prior to or at the original hearing date in order to keep the matter on calendar.

**B. Service of Pleadings where Temporary Orders have Issued.**

Where temporary orders have been issued by the court, the responding party must be served with the moving papers, temporary court orders as well as any required blank responsive pleadings within five (5) days of issuance of the temporary orders unless the order specifically designates a shorter time for service. Where service of process has not been completed in a timely fashion, a written order continuing the matter to a new date must be obtained prior to or at the original hearing date in order to keep the hearing on calendar and temporary orders in effect.

**C. Service of Responsive Pleadings.**

The response to the motion must be served in a manner reasonably calculated to ensure delivery to the other party not later than one (1) court day after the responding papers are filed with the court. See below for the applicable times for filing. (*Eff. 1/1/03.*)

#### **4.4 Filing Family Law Motions with the Court**

**A. Filing of Applications for Orders.**

The moving party must file the moving papers, including application, declaration(s), points and authorities, proposed order(s) and any other supporting documents, by mail or hand delivery to the court's filing window at a time no less than twenty one (21) calendar days prior to the hearing unless the court has granted an order shortening time or temporary orders. Motions or orders to show cause involving child custody and visitation, where no temporary orders have issued, must generally be filed approximately forty five (45) days prior to the date of hearing so that mediation may be completed prior to the hearing.

**B. Responsive Pleadings.**

The responding party generally must file any responsive pleadings, including declarations, objections and / or points and authorities, with the court no less than

ten (10) calendar days prior to the date of hearing unless the court specifically ordered another time for filing.

**C. Proof of Service.**

The moving party is advised to file the proof of service of the moving party's pleadings with the court at the time of filing the motion, but in no cases may the proof of service be filed with the court less than five (5) days before the hearing. If no timely proof of service has been filed and no responsive pleadings or stipulations are in file, the court may drop the matter from the calendar.

**D. Financial Declarations.**

A completed Income and Expense Declaration, Financial Statement (Simplified), and / or Property Declaration must be attached to and filed with any application for order when relevant to the relief requested. Such financial declarations, even where no change of circumstances are alleged, are deemed current only if executed within 90 days of the hearing determining the relief requested.

**E. Medical, Psychological or Educational Reports.**

Medical, psychological, educational or other types of reports concerning the child shall not be attached to motions filed with court, but shall be provided to the court at the time of hearing. Such reports or documentation not filed with the court, which a party intends to present to the court and rely upon at the hearing, must have been served on the other parties with the moving, responding or reply papers in accordance with applicable law and these Local Rules. No reports or documents submitted by a party will be considered by the court unless there is a stipulation or a proper evidentiary foundation is established. *(Eff. 1/1/03; As amended eff. 7/1/04.)*

**4.5 Child Custody Mediation**

**A. Mandatory Pre-Hearing Mediation Program.**

When any motion is filed placing child custody and/or visitation at issue, the parties are required to participate in the child custody mediation program prior to the court hearing. The moving party on the child custody and/or visitation motion must timely serve the responding party with the court issued "Mediation Referral and Information Packet" prior to the orientation session and thereafter the moving party must file proof of service of the Mediation Referral and Information Packet with the court prior to the motion hearing date. Failure of the moving party to timely serve the appropriate "Mediation Referral and Information Packet" and file proof of service of said packet may result in court sanctions including delay or denial of the child custody and/or visitation motion.

**B. Pre-Mediation Orientation.**

Prior to attending mediation, parents are generally required to attend an orientation session provided by Family Court Services. If a party wishes separate attendance at orientation, that party should inform Family Court Services to make arrangements accordingly. Sanctions, including summary denial of the motion,

evidentiary sanctions, continuances and/or monetary payments may be ordered against a party or the party's attorney for noncompliance with the requirement to attend orientation.

**C. Mediation.**

The moving and responding parties on a child custody or visitation motion shall attend and participate in mediation to attempt to reach agreement on all contested issues. The agreement(s) reached in mediation will not become court orders until the agreement(s) are affirmed by the parties, or their attorneys, in open court session or by written stipulation. Where the moving party does not cooperate in attending mediation the court will generally deny that party's motion unless good cause is shown for the failure to participate. (*Eff. 1/1/03; As amended, eff. 1/1/04.*)

**4.6 Pre-Hearing Meet and Confer / Exchange of Documents**

**A. Meet and Confer Requirements.**

Once responsive papers have been filed and served, the moving party or their attorney shall contact the opposing party or attorney in advance of the hearing to meet, confer, and ascertain which issues can be settled without a contested hearing.

**B. Exchange of Documents.**

A party may not wait until the time of the hearing to "surprise" the opposing party with documents or other evidence. Absent good cause shown or an order shortening time, all evidence that any party intends to rely upon at the hearing must be included in the moving, responding and reply papers served and filed pursuant to CCP § 1005. (*Eff. 1/1/03.*)

**4.7 Hearings on Family Law Motions**

**A. Time Limit.**

All hearings on the Family Law motion calendar are limited to ten (10) minutes or less. The transfer of a hearing from the motion calendar to longer hearing calendar shall be at the sole discretion of the court.

**B. Evidence Considered.**

The parties must be prepared to submit their cases based upon the filed pleadings, declarations, and for good cause shown, by offers of proof. Generally, live testimony by witnesses is not permitted on the Family Law motion calendar.

**C. Offer of Proof.**

An offer of proof is a succinct statement given by a party or counsel that states what a particular witness would say if called to the stand. Offers of proof are subject to the same evidentiary objections as live testimony and should be distinguished and presented separately from argument. Offers of proof will only be accepted in the court's discretion and will generally require a preliminary

showing of why the testimony could not have been included in the party's filed declarations.

**D. Live Witness Testimony.**

Live testimony is generally not allowed on the Family Law motion. A party seeking to introduce oral evidence at a hearing set by the court for that purpose must comply with the requirements of California Rules of Court, Rule 323.

Except for good cause shown, oral evidence will not be heard where the party has not demonstrated compliance with that Rule. (*Eff. 1/1/03.*)

**4.8 Orders on Motions and Stipulations**

**A. Written and Signed Stipulations.**

All stipulations recited in open court must thereafter be reduced to writing and signed by the parties or their attorneys if appropriate.

**B. Orders after Hearing.**

The prevailing party is responsible for preparing the order after hearing, submitting it to the other side for review and approval and thereafter forwarding the proposed order to the court for entry. Orders may be submitted directly to the court only when so ordered or upon a reasonable written explanation for the failure to obtain the other party's prior approval. (*Eff. 1/1/03.*)

**4.9 Trial**

**A. Filing the At-issue Memorandum.**

A matter is "at-issue" after a response to the petition has been filed. Once a matter is at issue, it may be set for trial. Either party may file an at-issue memorandum to set contested issues for trial. Generally, any contested issues of child custody and / or visitation must be determined first at a bifurcated trial prior to any other contested matters being set for trial. The court will respond to a request for trial by setting the matter for mandatory settlement and trial setting conference, setting the matter for case management, setting the matter for trial or denial of the request as the case is not at issue or other good cause is shown for a delay.

**B. Mandatory Settlement and Trial Setting Conference**

Matters proceeding to trial on contested issues will be set for a mandatory settlement and trial setting conference. Parties must participate in the settlement conference and submit to the court settlement conference statements five (5) court days prior to the conference pursuant to California Rules of Court 222 and Local rule 3.6. Trial on any remaining contested issues will be set at the conclusion of the settlement conference. (*Eff. 1/1/03; As amended, eff. 7/1/03.*)

**4.10 Appointment of Counsel Pursuant to Family Code §3150**

- A. Counsel appointed for a minor pursuant to Family Code §3150 shall not be charged any court filing fee for motions made and shall have access to the following:
1. Reasonable access to the child/children with adequate notice and access to any adult claiming any rights to custody and/or visitation;
  2. Notice of any proceeding, including any requested examinations, affecting the child/children;
  3. Access to medical, psychological and school records for the child/children;
  4. Access to all records and reports of mediators and/or evaluators and the right to communicate directly with evaluators;
  5. Communication with any professional dealing with the child/children, including, without limitation, teachers and other school personnel, doctors and therapists;
  6. The right to speak ex parte to the court after prior notice to counsel for the parties;
  7. Assertion on behalf of the child/children of any privilege for discovery purposes;
  8. The right to seek independent psychological or physical examination or evaluation of the child/children for purposes of the pending proceeding, upon application to the court; and
  9. The parties shall provide the attorney for the child/children with information relative to the name, address and telephone numbers for all individuals involved with the treatment, care, day care and education of the child/children.
- B. Duties: Pursuant to Family Code §3151, counsel for a minor is charged with the following duties:
1. Interview the child/children;
  2. Review the court files and all accessible relevant records available to the parties or agencies affecting the child/children;
  3. Make such investigation as counsel deems necessary to ascertain facts relevant to the custody/visitation hearings;
  4. Participate in the proceedings to the degree necessary to represent properly the child/children, including introducing and examining counsel's own witnesses, and presenting arguments to the court concerning the child's/children's welfare;
  5. Report to the court concerning the issue of custody and visitation; and
  6. Inform the court of the child's/children's wishes and the child's/children's interests. Attorney/client confidentiality may be waived to the extent that counsel and/or the court deems necessary to perform said duties.

- C. Procedures for reviewing and resolving complaints against counsel for the minor(s). Complaints by parties regarding court appointed counsel for the minor shall be reviewed and resolved under the procedures described in Local Rule 7.1 (F) (3.-9.). (*Eff. 7/1/98; As amended, eff. 1/1/04.*)

#### **4.11 Child Custody Evaluations.**

- A. Appointment: All child custody and visitation evaluations must be authorized by court order pursuant to Evidence Code § 730 and Family Code § 3111. Generally, the court will refuse to consider evaluations which have not been approved and ordered by the court.
- B. Selection: The court will appoint an evaluator from a list of experts compiled and approved by the court. The list of qualified evaluators may be obtained from the Family Court Services Director.
- C. Withdrawal: The court appointed evaluator may petition the court to withdraw as the evaluator in the matter before the court. The evaluator's petition need show no cause for the withdrawal. Upon receipt of an evaluator's petition to withdraw, the court will set a hearing regarding appointment of a new evaluator.
- D. Scope: In the interests of saving time and the expense to the parties, the evaluation may be limited in scope to the questions that the court requires answered.
- E. Objections: No preemptory challenge of evaluators shall be allowed. Parties may raise objections to a specific evaluator during the selection process. Parties may object to the conclusions of the report when the report is submitted to the court, and may introduce other appropriate expert testimony to object to the conclusions.
- F. Complaints: If a party alleges that the evaluator has acted in an unprofessional or inappropriate manner, the party may discuss the complaint with the evaluator, otherwise, or thereafter if the matter is not solved, all complaints shall be directed in writing, on the court approved form, to the Family Court Services Director. The Family Court Services Director shall review the complaint, conduct any necessary investigation, take any appropriate action and provide a written reply to the complainant.
- G. Costs: The court will order payment of the evaluation at the time of the appointment. In most cases the parties will share equally in the costs of the evaluation and the drafting of the report. Payment of the expert to appear at a hearing and/or testify shall be at the sole expense of the party requiring the expert's presence before the court. The parties may seek an order allocating the costs of the evaluation in a manner other than an equal division at the time of selection of the evaluator. (*Eff. 7/1/01; As amended, eff. 1/1/04.*)

#### 4.12 Family Law Facilitator – Additional Duties

The Family Law Facilitator may be assigned or undertake those additional duties specified in Family Code § 10005(a) and (b). (*Eff. 1/1/02.*)

#### 4.13 Family Law Case Management

- A. Purpose - The goal of Family Law Case Management is to encourage timely and just resolutions in marital termination actions. In each marital termination action the Petition and Summons shall be served within 60 days of filing. The Response shall be served within 30 days of service of the Petition and Summons on the respondent. Notwithstanding these case management rules, any party may file a motion on the Civil Law and Motion calendar. Likewise, when appropriate, any party may file an At-Issue memorandum requesting the setting of a trial date. The Family Law Case Management calendar is not a Law and Motion calendar.
- B. Inclusion Upon Filing - Each dissolution of marriage, nullity or legal separation action filed after the effective date of this rule shall be included in the Family Law Case Management calendar, and shall thereafter be subject to court supervision until entry of judgment or dismissal. Upon the filing of a dissolution of marriage, nullity or legal separation action the court shall provide the petitioner a Family Law Case Management Notice which shall set the date and time of the Family Law Case Management Conference which is to be held approximately 120 days from the filing of the Petition. It is the responsibility of the petitioner to serve a copy of the Case Management Notice on the respondent along with the Summons and Petition. Proof of service of the Summons and Petition should include proof that the Case Management Notice was served.
- C. Required Statement - At least fifteen (15) days before each Family Law Case Management Conference, the parties shall file with the court and serve on all other parties a Family Law Case Management Conference Statement (see Appendix “A” Form A-3) a copy of which is available at the court clerk’s window or the court’s web site “www.calaveras-court.com” under the Local Rules section. The parties may elect to file a jointly prepared Statement.
- D. Participation in Conference - Counsel for each party and each self-represented party appearing in the action shall attend the Family Law Case Management Conference, shall have filed the required statement and shall be familiar with the case and be fully prepared to discuss all matters stated in subdivision E below. Counsel or self-represented party may appear by telephone by making arrangements with CourtCall (888/88-COURT) at least five days prior to the conference. Parties appearing by telephone must comply with Local Rule 3.8. The court may, after review of the timely filed Statements required above, determine that appearances at the conference are not necessary. If such

appearance is not required, the court will issue a case management order and notify the parties that no appearance is required.

E. Actions and Orders - At the Family Law Case Management Conference, the court shall take appropriate action and make orders consistent with the policy of differentiated case management and prompt case resolution. Such actions may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Setting the case for mandatory settlement conference and / or trial;
2. Continuing the case for further management conference;
3. Severing or bifurcating causes of actions or issues;
4. Consolidating cases;
5. Setting discovery or law and motion schedules;
6. Setting for special settlement conference;
7. Dismissing the action in whole or in part;
8. Imposing sanctions;
9. Referring the parties to family law resources; and/or
10. Ordering counsel or parties to engage in and report back on meet and confer discussions. (*Eff. 7/1/02.*)



## CHAPTER 5 CRIMINAL RULES

### 5.1 Witness Lists

In any case in which the trial is scheduled less than 30 days after arraignment, witness lists shall be exchanged at the Trial Readiness Conference. *(Eff. 7/1/98.)*

### 5.2 Continuances

No criminal matter will be continued, even by stipulation of the parties, except pursuant to Penal Code § 1050. *(Eff. 1/1/01; As amended, eff. 1/1/02.)*

### 5.3 Pleas at the Time of Trial

It shall be the policy of the court that when a defendant has not made a motion to change his/her pleas at the Trial Readiness Conference, only pleas to all counts in the complaint or information will be accepted, except when the counts are plead in the alternative. *(Eff. 1/1/01.)*

### 5.4 Plea Bargaining

Sentencing is a function of the judiciary. The provisions of Penal Code § 1192.6 and Penal Code § 1192.7 will be strictly adhered to in plea bargaining. *(Eff. 1/1/02.)*

### 5.5 Discovery

Discovery in criminal cases shall be in accordance with Title VI, Chapter 10 of the Penal Code. *(Eff. 1/1/02.)*

### 5.6 Motions for Bail Modifications or Release on Own Recognizance

Motions for own recognizance release or bail modification shall be made in open court. Once a judge has ruled on a bail or O.R. motion, the Court will not modify bail or grant O.R. without a showing of materially changed circumstances.

When a motion for own recognizance release or bail modification has been made to the Court, and granted in whole or in part, or granted conditionally or on terms, and a subsequent motion is made by the same party in the same case for a similar order upon materially changed circumstances the subsequent motion shall be accompanied by disclosure that a prior motion has been made, when and to what judge it was made, what the nature of the motion was, what order or decision was made thereon, and what materially changed circumstances are claimed to be shown. *(Eff. 1/1/02.)*

### 5.7 Traffic Infractions – Trial by Declaration

Pursuant to Vehicle Code § 40902, a defendant charged with Vehicle Code infractions or violations of local ordinances adopted pursuant to the Vehicle Code may waive his right

to personally appear for trial, and may request trial by written declaration without a personal appearance. Trial by declaration is available to any defendant who wishes to contest the citation and who requests trial by declaration, either by mail or in person, prior to the date set for his or her initial appearance in court. Failure of the defendant to appear at the initial appearance whether an election has been made or not, may be deemed by the court an election by the defendant to proceed by trial by declaration pursuant to Vehicle Code § 40903. The defendant may not elect for a trial by declaration if defendant has been notified by the court that a personal appearance is mandatory.

A defendant who has requested trial by declaration must file the declaration, under penalty of perjury, and post the required bail on or before the hearing date assigned by the Clerk. The Clerk is authorized to assign a date which permits the defendant time to file the written declaration and post the required bail.

The court may accept testimony and other relevant evidence introduced in the form of a notice to appear issued pursuant to Vehicle Code § 40500, business records or receipts, a sworn declaration of the issuing officer or written statements or letters signed by the defendant or defendant's witnesses.

If the defendant is dissatisfied with the decision of the court, the defendant shall have a right to a trial de novo. A request for a trial de novo shall be made by the defendant personally at the office of the Clerk, or in a writing received by the Clerk, no later than twenty (20) days after the date the written notice of decision is mailed by the Clerk to the defendant. (*Eff. 1/1/02.*)

## **5.8 Fees for Investigation and Other Experts**

In criminal matters, no payment shall be authorized for services of an investigator, a scientist, or a forensic expert without the written approval of the judge of the department in which the matter is pending. Said written approval must be obtained prior to the time that expert services have been provided.

For any case where a request for authorization of additional expert services fees is made, the application must be made and approved before such additional expert services are provided. The request for authorization of additional expert fees shall include a declaration stating: (a) the number and nature of the requesting party's prior applications for expert services; (b) the total amount of expert services fees previously awarded to the requesting party in the case; and (c) the total amount of expert services fees that have been paid on behalf of the requesting party in the case.

All requests for payment of previously authorized fees shall be made by declaration of the attorney and must include the expert's invoice as well as a copy of the order approving said services.

Investigator fee rates paid by the court shall be established by general administrative order of the Presiding Judge. (*Eff. 7/1/02.*)

## **5.9 Real Property Bonds in Lieu of Cash Bail**

A defendant or any other person may give as security any equity in real property which he or she owns provided, however, the value of the equity offered is equal to twice the amount of the cash bail required as set forth in Penal Code Section 1298.

Before a property bond may be accepted by the Court, a hearing must be held for a court determination as to the applicant's equity in the real property. To set the matter for hearing, a noticed motion with proof of service to the District Attorney must be filed with the Clerk at least 10 days prior to the date set for the hearing. The following documents must be submitted as attachments to the motion:

- A. Copy of the proposed promissory note in the amount of the required bond.
- B. Copy of the deed of trust to be recorded securing the promissory note and naming a recognized California title company as the trustee and the County of Calaveras as the beneficiary.
- C. Current preliminary title report concerning the property which has been prepared by a recognized California title company.
- D. A current appraisal of the property performed by a state licensed real estate appraiser. The appraisal report shall include a statement of the appraiser's training and experience.
- E. Statements from all lienholders having liens against the property, showing the amount presently due on the obligation.

The court may require additional evidence in order to ascertain the true equity in the property held by the applicants. All costs incurred to process the property bond and to comply with this Rule shall be borne by the applicant.

If the Court approves the property bond, the applicant shall record the deed of trust and then shall deliver to the Clerk the following documents:

- F. The original signed promissory note.
- G. Copy of the deed of trust showing its recorded status. The original deed of trust shall be returned by mail from the recorder's office to the Clerk.
- H. An updated preliminary title report showing the recorded deed of trust for the subject promissory note in the priority position previously approved by the Court.

Upon delivery to the Clerk of the foregoing documents, the applicant shall be entitled to obtain an ex parte order of the Court for the release of the designated defendant.

The Clerk shall deposit the original deed of trust and promissory note with the Treasurer of Calaveras County for safekeeping, maintaining copies of same and an appropriate receipt from the Treasurer in the case file.

In the event the property bond is ordered forfeited, upon entry of summary judgment and order of the Court, the Clerk shall prepare an appropriate form of order for the Court's signature directing the Treasurer to release the original deed of trust and promissory note to County Counsel for the commencement of foreclosure proceedings.

In the event the property bond is ordered exonerated, the Clerk shall prepare an appropriate form of order for the Court's signature directing the Treasurer to release the original deed of trust and promissory note to County Counsel for the appropriate endorsement of the request for full reconveyance on the deed of trust and for the return of such endorsed deed of trust and original promissory note marked "paid in full" by County Counsel to the maker. *(Eff. 7/1/04.)*

## CHAPTER 6 PROBATE RULES

### **6.1 Compensation for Guardians, Conservators, Trustees and their Counsel, and for Counsel for a Conservatee or Ward**

- A. A petition for compensation of a guardian, conservator, trustee and counsel, or for counsel for a conservatee or ward shall be accompanied by an itemized statement of the services rendered, an explanation of the value or benefit of those services to the estate, and the total amount requested for such services, made under penalty of perjury, and executed by the person rendering the services.
- B. The court shall evaluate a petition for just and reasonable compensation according to the services performed, time expended, average hourly rate, results accomplished, and benefit to the conservatee/ward and/or the estate. A conservator or guardian who is a professional may not necessarily be compensated for all services rendered at that person's ordinary professional rate.
- C. No compensation shall be paid from the estate to: an executor, administrator, guardian, conservator, or attorney for any such fiduciary, or to an attorney for the conservatee or ward in advance of a court order authorizing such payment. (*Eff. 7/1/98.*)

### **6.2 Claims of Minors and Incompetent Persons**

#### **6.2.1 Application for Appointment of Guardian Ad Litem**

Petitions for appointment of a guardian ad litem for a minor or incompetent person shall be submitted to the clerk. When an application is made for appointment of a guardian ad litem and the nominee for appointment is a plaintiff in the same action with the ward, or in some manner was a participant in the transaction or occurrence giving rise to the alleged injury to the ward, the nominee will ordinarily not be appointed unless the application is accompanied by:

- A. A declaration under penalty of perjury setting forth facts establishing that no other parent, relative, or friend can or will accept the appointment of guardian ad litem for the minor in the action; and
- B. A declaration under penalty of perjury by the attorney for the nominee stating that the attorney, having investigated the circumstances, has represented to the nominee and represents to the court that there is no conflict of interest between the nominee and the minor if the nominee is appointed the guardian ad litem.
- C. If an attorney's contract is submitted for approval at the time of appointment of a guardian ad litem, approval thereof will not be considered approval of a fee. If a lien on any recovery is provided for in such a contract, such will be allowed only to the extent of costs and services actually and reasonably provided on behalf of the ward. (*Eff. 7/1/98.*)

### 6.2.2 Compromise of Claims and Attorney's Fees

- A. A petition to compromise a minor's or incompetent's claim pursuant to Section 372 of the Code of Civil Procedure or any petition for approval of a claim under the provisions of Section 3500 of the Probate Code shall contain the following information:
1. Facts - A brief statement which sets forth the facts which establish liability. This statement shall include the name and birth date of the minor or incompetent person as well as a copy of any existing accident investigation report of any police agency.
  2. Medical Issues - A statement which outlines all medical treatment furnished, to date, what future medical, if any, is expected to be required and the nature and extent of any permanent injuries sustained by the minor. This statement shall be supported by a current report or letter from the treating physician outlining the present condition and prognosis of the minor or incompetent person.
  3. Medical Expenses - The total medical expenses incurred by the minor to date and the estimated cost of any anticipated medical attention which will be required in the future.
  4. Reasonableness of Fees - A reasonably detailed declaration setting forth all effort expended on behalf of the minor in obtaining the settlement and how it was expended. Absent unusual circumstances or conditions, the approved attorney fees for a minor's compromise case should not exceed twenty-five percent of the settlement amount, if the settlement occurs before the case is assigned to a department for trial. The declaration should address all of the following factors:
    - a. What was the degree of difficulty involved?
    - c. How much skill was needed and employed?
    - d. How much risk was there of a poor final result for the amount of work done?
    - e. How much money, if any, did the attorney advance?
    - f. How many hours of work did the attorney do?
    - i. Whether the attorney's fee is contingent on recovery.
- For additional information see Niederer v. Ferriera, [1987] 189 Cal. App. 3d 1485.*
5. Available Coverage - Where the injuries (damages) clearly exceed the amount of the insurance policy being offered, the statement shall also include a recitation of all steps taken to determine if any additional coverage or assets are available from which the minor could seek compensation.

6. Reasonableness of Settlement - Any additional information that may be of assistance to the court in determining if the petition should be granted or would assist the court in determining reasonable compensation for the attorney in the case. This statement shall include the amounts, if any, paid, or to be paid, to any other claimants, including whether the guardian ad litem is a plaintiff in any action arising from these facts or circumstances and any sums received therefore.
- B. Costs - Allowable costs (CCP 1033.5) paid or incurred by the attorney will ordinarily be deducted from the judgment/settlement prior to computation of fees.
- C. Settlement Proceeds - If the petition for approval of a claim under Section 3500(b) of the Probate Code relates to a structured settlement calling for future periodic payments, the petition shall state the cost of the annuity. In cases involving minors, the order shall contain the date when the minor will attain the age of 18 years and a directive to the bank, trust company or other financial institution to release all funds to the minor on such date without further order from the court. In any case in which the court orders the sum to be received by the minor to be deposited in a financial institution, the order shall contain the further order that, "A certified copy of this order shall be delivered to the manager of said financial institution, together with the sum to be deposited therein, and that there shall be a written receipt of said financial institution forthwith filed with the clerk of the court in which the compromise was approved, acknowledging receipt of both the sum deposited and said order. (*Eff. 1/1/02.*)

### **6.2.3 Withdrawal of Funds**

Requests for withdrawal of funds deposited for minors prior to age of majority and/or incompetent persons will be allowed only upon a verified petition, and subject to the following:

- A. The certificate of deposit must have been completed and filed prior to filing of the petition for withdrawal.
- B. In the event the petition to withdraw funds is based upon the denial of a public agency providing public assistance to provide funds because of the existence of the account, a copy of the written notice from the agency concerned, so stating, shall be attached to the petition.
- C. In addition to the trustee/guardian, minors age fourteen (14) or over shall sign and date the application.
- D. Except for withdrawals to pay taxes on minor's funds, orders for withdrawals will ordinarily not be granted if either or both parents are living and financially able to pay the requested expenditure.
- E. Within fifteen (15) days from the date of the order, a declaration of expenditures made with the funds shall be filed with the clerk. (*Eff. 7/1/98.*)





## CHAPTER 7 JUVENILE RULES

### 7.1 Appointment of Counsel in Juvenile Dependency Proceedings

- A. Purpose and Applicability: This rule is established to comply with Sections 317 et. seq. of the Welfare and Institutions Code and Rule 1438 of the California Rules of Court.
- B. General Competency Requirement: All attorneys appearing in juvenile dependency proceedings must meet minimum standards of competence as set forth in California Rules of Court, Rule 1438(c). This rule is applicable to attorneys employed by public agencies, attorneys appointed by the court to represent any party in juvenile dependency proceeding, and attorneys who are privately retained to represent a party to a juvenile dependency proceeding.
- C. Screening for Competency:
  - 1. All attorneys who represent parties in juvenile court proceedings shall meet the minimum standards of training and/or experience as set forth above. Any attorney appearing in a dependency matter for the first time shall complete and submit a Certificate of Competence to the court within 10 days of his or her first appearance in a dependency matter.
  - 2. Attorneys who meet the minimum standards of training and/or experience as set forth above, as demonstrated by the information contained in the Certificate of Competence submitted to the court, shall be deemed competent to practice before the Juvenile Court in dependency cases except as provided in subdiv. 3.
  - 3. Notwithstanding the submission of a Certificate of Competence which demonstrates that the attorney has met the minimum standards for training and/or experience, the court may determine, based on conduct or performance of counsel before the court in a dependency proceeding, that a particular attorney does not meet minimum competency standards. In such case, the court shall proceed as set forth in section F of this rule.
  - 4. In the case of an attorney who maintains his or her principal office outside of this county, proof of certification by the Juvenile Court of the California county in which the attorney maintains an office shall be sufficient evidence of competence to appear in a juvenile proceeding in this county.
- D. Minimum Standards of Education and Training:
  - 1. Each attorney appearing in a dependency matter before the Juvenile Court shall not seek certification of competency and shall not be certified by the court as competent until the attorney has completed the minimum training and education requirements established by California Rules of Court, Rule 1438(c).

2. In order to retain his or her certification to practice before the Juvenile Court, each attorney who has been previously certified by the court shall submit a new Certificate of Competence to the court on or before January 31 of the third year after the year in which the attorney is first certified and then every third year thereafter. The attorney shall attach to the renewal Certificate of Competence evidence that he or she has complied with California Rules of Court, Rule 1438(c).
  3. When a certified attorney fails to submit evidence that he or she has completed at least the minimum-required training and education to the court by the due date, the court shall notify the attorney that he or she will be decertified. The attorney shall have 20 days from the date of the mailing of the notice to submit evidence of his or her completion of the required training or education. If the attorney fails to submit the required evidence or fails to complete the required minimum hours of continuing training or education, the court shall order, except in cases where a party is represented by retained counsel, that certified counsel be substituted for the attorney who fails to complete the required training. In the case of retained counsel, the court shall notify the party that his or her counsel has failed to meet the minimum standards required by the rule. The determination whether to obtain substitute counsel shall be solely within the discretion of the party so notified.
- E. Standards of Representation: All attorneys appearing in dependency proceedings shall meet the minimum standards of representation as set forth in California Rules of Court, Rule 1438(c)(4).
- F. Procedures for Reviewing and Resolving Complaints
1. Any party to a juvenile court proceeding may lodge a written complaint with the court concerning the performance of his or her appointed attorney in a Juvenile Court proceeding. In the case of a complaint concerning the performance of an attorney appointed to represent a minor, the complaint may be lodged on the child's behalf by the social worker, a caretaker relative, or a foster parent.
  2. Each appointed attorney shall give written notice to his or her adult client of the procedure for lodging complaints with the court concerning the performance of an appointed attorney. The notice shall be given to the client within 10 days of the attorney's appointment to represent the client. Evidence that a copy of said notice was given or mailed to the client shall be provided to the court within 10 days of a request therefore from the court. In the case of a minor client, the notice shall be mailed or given to the current caretaker of the child. If the minor is 12 years of age or older, a copy of the notice shall be provided to the minor.
  3. The court shall review a complaint within 10 days of receipt. If the court determines that the complaint presents reasonable cause to believe that the attorney may have failed to act competently or has violated local rules, the

court shall notify the attorney in question of the complaint and shall give the attorney 20 days from the date of the notice to respond to the complaint in writing.

4. After a response has been filed by the attorney or the time for submission of a response has passed, the court shall review the complaint and the response, if any, to determine whether the attorney acted contrary to law, these rules or has otherwise acted incompetently. The court may ask the complainant or the attorney for additional information prior to making a determination on the complaint.
5. If, after reviewing the complaint, the response, and any additional information, the court finds that the attorney acted contrary to the law or these rules of the court, the court may reprove the attorney, either privately or publicly, and may, in cases of willful or egregious violations of his or her duties, issue such reasonable monetary sanctions against the attorney as the court may deem appropriate.
6. If, after reviewing the complaint, the response, and any additional information, the court finds that the attorney acted incompetently, the court may order that the attorney practice under the supervision of a mentor attorney for a period of at least six months, that the attorney complete a specified number of hours of training or education in a specific area of study. In cases in which the attorney's conduct caused actual harm to his or her client, the court shall order that competent counsel be substituted for the attorney found to have been incompetent and may, in the court's discretion, refer the matter to the State Bar of California for further action.
7. The court shall notify the attorney and the complaining party in writing of its determination of the complaint. The complaining party or the attorney shall have ten days after the date of the notice to request a review by another judge concerning the court's proposed action. If the complaining party or attorney does not request a review within that period of time, the court's determination shall become final.
8. If a review is requested, it shall be completed as soon as practicable after the request therefore, but in no case shall it be completed more than 30 days after it has been requested, except by stipulation of the parties. The review shall not be open to the public.
9. Within ten days after the review, the reviewing judge shall issue a written determination upholding, reversing, or amending the court's original determination. A copy of the review decision shall be provided to both the complainant and the attorney. The determination after review shall be final.

G. Procedures for Informing the Court of the Interests of a Dependent Child:

1. At any time during the pendency of a dependence proceeding, any interested person may notify the court that the minor, who is the subject of the proceeding, may have an interest or right which needs to be protected

or pursued in another judicial or administrative forum. If counsel for the minor becomes aware that the minor may have a right or interest which needs to be protected or pursued in another judicial or administrative forum, counsel for the minor shall notify the court of such right or interest as soon as it is reasonably possible for counsel to do so.

2. Notice to the court may be given by the filing and service on all parties of a declaration. The person giving notice shall set forth the nature of the interest or right which needs to be protected or pursued, the name and address, if known, of the administrative agency or judicial forum in which the right or interest may be affected and the nature of the proceedings being contemplated or conducted there.
  3. If the person filing the notice is the counsel for the minor, the notice shall state what action on the child's behalf the attorney believes is necessary, whether the attorney is willing or able to pursue the matter on the child's behalf, whether the association of counsel specializing in practice before that agency or court may be necessary or appropriate, whether the appointment of a guardian ad litem may be necessary to initiate or pursue the proposed action, whether joinder of an administrative agency to the Juvenile Court proceedings pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code §362 may be appropriate or necessary to protect or pursue the child's interests, and whether further investigation may be necessary.
  4. The court may set a hearing on the notice if the court deems it necessary in order to determine the nature of the child's right or interest or whether said interest should be protected or pursued.
- H. Time Lines: Attorneys for parties are required to adhere to the statutory time lines for all hearings. Time waivers will be accepted and continuances granted only on a showing of exceptional circumstances. (*Eff. 7/1/98; As amended, eff. 7/1/02.*)

## **7.2 Juvenile Facsimile Filings**

The court does not accept the direct filing of documents pursuant to California Rules of Court, Rule 2006 or Rule 1406.5 except upon exceptional circumstances and after obtaining leave of court. (*Eff. 1/1/01.*)

## **7.3 Authorization to Administer Psychotropic Medications.**

Pursuant to California Rules of Court, Rule 1432.5(i), absent prior court order granting authorization, psychotropic medication may not be administered to a child declared a ward of the court, under Welfare & Institutions Code § 601 or 602, where such child has been removed from the custody of the parent or guardian. The procedure for obtaining court authorization is provided in California Rules of Court, Rule 1432.5. (*Eff. 7/1/01.*)

#### **7.4 Juvenile, Probate and Family Courts Exchange of Information**

The Probation Department, Family Court Services, and the Calaveras Works and Human Services Agency may disclose to each other information concerning or relating to any dependent minor, ward, or conservatee who is the subject of any investigation or any matter pending before the court as necessary for each entity to carry out its duties to the court. Confidential information exchanged under this rule remains confidential and shall not be further released except as provided by law or court order. *(Eff. 7/1/02, As amended, eff 7/1/03.)*



## CHAPTER 8 APPEALS TO THE APPELLATE DEPARTMENT OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

### 8.1 Three Judge Panel

All limited jurisdiction civil and criminal appeals are decided by a majority of a three-judge panel of the Appellate Department of the Superior Court, except that appeals of traffic violations are heard by one judge of the Appellate Department. (*Eff. 7/1/98; As amended, eff. 1/1/01.*)

### 8.2 Filing of Appeal, Briefing and Hearing Dates

Appeal papers shall be filed with the clerk. Briefing and hearing dates will be set by the court. Each party shall ensure that complete documentation is submitted in a timely manner. (*Eff. 7/1/98.*)

### 8.3 Briefing Procedure

- A. An original and three copies of each brief shall be filed with the clerk. Notwithstanding the California Rules of Court, briefs shall not be bound.
- B. All briefs shall include appropriate points and authorities, clear identification of the issue(s) being raised and valid proof of service. Because appeals are concerned with issues of law, mere factual arguments will generally be insufficient. If applicable, a reporter's transcript and/or a settled statement on appeal shall be submitted.
- C. A party may file a request for an extension of time to comply with the briefing schedule with the Presiding Judge of the Appellate Department. Such request shall include a separate declaration providing good cause for the extension of time and a proposed order. The request shall be filed prior to the expiration of the applicable filing deadline.
- D. Failure of the appellant to file a timely opening brief or to otherwise comply with applicable rules may result in dismissal of the appeal. (*Eff. 7/1/98.*)

### 8.4 Prerogative Writs

- A. Service of Petition. Code of Civil Procedure section 1107 requires service of the verified petition before it is filed, and also requires that the application for a writ be accompanied by proof of service of a copy of the application upon the respondent and the real party in interest. The petition may be filed without a proof of service, but no action will be taken on the petition unless there is compliance with the service provisions of Code of Civil Procedure sections 1107 and 1088.5 and paragraph E (1) below.

- B. Manner of Service. A petition must be served in the same manner as summons and complaint.
- C. Persons to be Served. Where the respondent or real party in interest is a board or commission, service must be made upon the presiding officer, or upon the secretary, or upon a majority of the members of such board or commission.
- D. Orders to Show Cause and Motions.
- (1) Motions. The hearing on a petition is the trial of the case. It may be set by noticed motion in the manner generally governing motions. Absent a need to appear ex parte for a stay or other temporary order, use of the motion procedure is preferred.
  - (2) Order to Show Cause. The hearing on a petition may be set by order to show cause but this is rarely done.
- E. Alternative Writs.
- (1) Prior Service of Application. Absent a declaration showing good cause or written waiver by the responding party, an alternative writ will not issue unless the application is served at least five (5) days before the ex parte hearing.
  - (2) Briefing Schedule and Hearing Date. Issuance of the alternative writ places the matter on the Court's calendar for hearing; it does not, in and of itself, accomplish a stay or afford any affirmative relief. If issued, the alternative writ must be served in the same manner as a summons in a civil action unless the court orders otherwise. [See, Code Civ. Proc., § 1073.] A briefing schedule will be set by the Court at the time the alternative writ is issued.
- F. Pleadings. The rules of practice governing civil actions are generally applicable. The respondent may file a demurrer, motion to strike or answer, or otherwise appear. A writ of mandate cannot, however, be granted by default; the case must be heard by the Court whether the adverse party appears. [Code Civ. Proc., § 1088.]
- G. Evidence. In administrative mandate proceedings (Code Civ. Proc., § 1094.5) the evidence before the court is confined to the administrative record, unless the exception in subdivision (e) of Section 1094.5 applies and a declaration establishes the application of the exception. In other kinds of writ proceedings, evidence is presented by way of declarations, deposition testimony, etc., and not by oral testimony unless the court, in its discretion, permits it. Setting the writ for hearing before the record is prepared or before the evidence is gathered serves only to unnecessarily clog the court's calendar since the hearing must be continued if the record is not available or the evidence otherwise is incomplete.



- H. Scope of Review. The scope of the court's review (i.e., "substantial evidence" vs. "independent judgment") depends upon the nature of the relief sought and a variety of other factors. The parties must state their position on this issue in the memoranda filed in support of and in opposition of the issuance of the writ. (*Eff.* 1/1/04.)



**THIS APPLICATION MUST BE FULLY COMPLETED OR IT WILL BE REJECTED**

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE)<br><br>ATTORNEY FOR: (NAME)  | FOR COURT USE ONLY |
| <b>SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF CALAVERAS</b><br>COURT LOCATION: GOVERNMENT CENTER<br>MAILING ADDRESS: 891 MOUNTAIN RANCH ROAD<br>CITY & ZIP CODE: SAN ANDREAS, 95249 |                    |
| PETITIONER/PLAINTIFF:<br><br>RESPONDENT/DEFENDANT:   |                    |
| REQUESTED<br>HEARING DATE: _____ TIME: _____ DEPT: _____   |                    |
| <b>APPLICATION FOR IMMEDIATE COURT HEARING AND ORDER</b>   |                    |

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby declare the following is true and correct:  
*(Applicant's name is printed above)*

1. The **opposing party** ☐ is ☐ is not represented by an attorney. Opposing attorney(s) or self represented party's **name, address and phone number** is \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

*(Absent exceptional circumstances or clear statutory authority, ALL parties to this action must be given PRIOR notice of this application.)*

2. ☐ **I provided actual notice of the hearing** by speaking to the other party or attorney:

Notice was given to \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_ am/pm  
 and he/she ☐ will ☐ will not appear at the hearing and ☐ does ☐ does not oppose relief sought.

Notice was given to \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_ am/pm  
 and he/she ☐ will ☐ will not appear at the hearing and ☐ does ☐ does not oppose relief sought.  
☐ Notice given to additional parties / attorneys listed under "Other" on page 2 of this declaration.

*(If ANY party to this action has not received actual notice of this application you must check 3 below and explain why no notice was given on page 2)*

3. ☐ **I have not provided notice of the hearing** for the reasons set forth on page 2 of this declaration.
4. **The orders I am requesting:** \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ See page 2.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| FOR COURT USE ONLY  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Set hearing as requested.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Request for hearing is denied.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Use regular noticed motion. | <input type="checkbox"/> Re-set hearing to _____<br><input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient application @ # _____<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other : _____<br>_____ |
| Dated: _____  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Judge / <input type="checkbox"/> Deputy Clerk  |  |

**APPLICATION FOR IMMEDIATE COURT HEARING AND ORDER**

**THIS APPLICATION MUST BE FULLY COMPLETED OR IT WILL BE REJECTED**

|          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| PARTIES: | CASE NO.: |
|----------|-----------|

5. (Continued from 3.) **Facts showing why no notice should be required** prior to the hearing:

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6. (Continued from 4.) **Specify exactly what orders you are requesting:** \_\_\_\_\_

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7. I ☐ have ☐ have not made **prior applications for the same or similar relief**. If you have, explain:

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8. There ☐ are ☐ are not **other court cases between these parties**. If so, state the name of the court, case number and the general nature of those cases: \_\_\_\_\_

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9. **Other** facts / circumstances in support of this Application: \_\_\_\_\_

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10. ☐ Prior to the hearing, **all other parties will receive a completed copy of this Application**.

I have read the above completed application and personally know the above statements are true.  
I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed at \_\_\_\_\_, California, on \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed name of declarant* *Signature of declarant*

**APPLICATION FOR IMMEDIATE COURT HEARING AND ORDER**

**Calaveras Superior Court Juvenile Division  
Counsel Certificate of Competence**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

State Bar No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

I am an attorney-at-law licensed to practice in the State of California. I hereby certify that I meet the minimum standards for practice before a Juvenile Court set forth in California Rules of Court, Rule 1438, and Local Rule No. 7 and that I have completed the minimum requirements for training, education and/or experience as set forth below.

**Training and Education:**

(Attach copies of MCLE certificates or other documentation of attendance)

| Course Title | Date Completed | Hours | Provider |
|--------------|----------------|-------|----------|
|--------------|----------------|-------|----------|

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**Juvenile Dependency Experience:**

| Case # | No. of<br>Contested Hearings | Date of Last<br>Appearance | Party<br>Represented |
|--------|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
|--------|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**Dated:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

---

**JUVENILE CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCE** *(Eff. 7/1/98)*



|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE)  | <i>FOR COURT USE ONLY</i> |
| ATTORNEY FOR: (NAME)   |                           |
| <b>SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF CALAVERAS</b><br>COURT LOCATION: GOVERNMENT CENTER<br>MAILING ADDRESS: 891 MOUNTAIN RANCH ROAD<br>CITY & ZIP CODE: SAN ANDREAS, 95249 |                           |
| PETITIONER:<br><br>RESPONDENT:   |                           |
| CASE MANAGEMENT<br>CONFERENCE DATE: _____ TIME: _____ DEPT: _____  | CASE NO.: _____           |
| <b>FAMILY LAW CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE STATEMENT</b><br><b>I Telephonic Appearance Requested*</b>  |                           |

1. I am: (a) ☐ attorney for ☐ petitioner or ☐ respondent  
 (b) ☐ self-represented petitioner or ☐ self-represented respondent  
 (c) ☐ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. The other party ☐ is ☐ is not represented by an attorney. Opposing attorney or self-represented party's name, address and telephone number is:  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rep.: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Add. & Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Additional parties and representative information attached.
  
3. This case involves the following issues (check all that apply):  
☐ Child Custody which has been ☐ resolved by agreement ☐ court order ☐ still pending.  
☐ Child Support which has been ☐ resolved by agreement ☐ court order ☐ still pending.  
☐ Spousal Support which has been ☐ resolved by agreement ☐ court order ☐ still pending.  
☐ Division of Interest in Residence has been ☐ resolved by agreement ☐ court order ☐ still pending.  
☐ Division of Pension which has been ☐ resolved by agreement ☐ court order ☐ still pending.  
☐ Marital Property or Debts which has been ☐ resolved by agreement ☐ court order ☐ still pending.  
☐ Additional issues information attached.
  
4. ☐ I have met and conferred with the other party / attorney on those issues listed in paragraph "3" above and the areas of agreement / disagreement on the pending issues are:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Explanation of additional issues attached.
  
5. **Discovery** – I have completed ☐ All ☐ None ☐ Some of the discovery required in this action.  
**The following discovery remains to be completed and it is expected to be completed on:**  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Additional discovery information attached.

\* For telephone appearances you must schedule at least 5 days in advance with CourtCall at 888/88-COURT.

6. **Trial Readiness** – This case is expected to take \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ days / ☐ hours of trial to complete. The following pretrial motions are ☐ anticipated ☐ pending and shall be heard on or about:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**This case will be ready for trial on** \_\_\_\_\_

7. Statement Prepared By:

**This Statement was prepared by** ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent and  
**Submitted** ☐ Jointly or ☐ Individually.

**This statement accurately reflects the present status of the case.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Attorney for or ☐ self-represented  
☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent

**If no appearance is required you may notify me by telephone at:** \_\_\_\_\_

(For jointly submitted statements only.)

**This Statement accurately reflects the present status of the case.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Attorney for or ☐ self-represented  
☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent

**If no appearance is required you may notify me by telephone at:** \_\_\_\_\_

8. Additional Pages - ☐ There are \_\_\_\_\_ pages attached to this Statement.

### **Proof of Service**

I declare: I am over the age of 18, not a party to this action, and I work/reside in the county where the mailing of this document took place. My address is ☐ listed at the top of the first page or ☐ below

On the date below I served a completed copy of this document on those persons listed at paragraph "2" above by enclosing the document in properly addressed and postage prepaid envelopes and ☐ depositing the sealed envelope with the U.S. Postal Service ☐ placing the envelope for collection and mailing in a location within the business where mail is regularly and ordinarily deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the same day of deposit.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_



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